

**REMARKS**

Before entry of this Amendment and Response, the status of the application according to the pending Office action is as follows:

- Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,752,890 to Shishido et al. (hereinafter “Shishido”).
- Claims 1-14 are allowed.

Applicants hereby cancel claim 15. Applicants hereby amend claim 14 to correct a minor typographical error. Applicants hereby add new claims 16 and 17. Support for these claims can be found in the specification as originally filed, and at least at page 4, line 24 to page 6, line 2 and page 9, line 20 to page 10, line 24. No new matter has been added thereby.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and allowance of claims 1-14, 16, and 17 in due course.

1. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shishido. Applicants have cancelled claim 15, thereby rendering the rejection of that claim moot.
2. Applicants hereby add new claims 16 and 17. New claims 16 and 17 are dependent from allowed independent claims 1 and 14 respectively, and are allowable for the same reason. Applicants therefore respectfully request the allowance of new claims 16 and 17 in due course.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and allowance of claims 1-14, 16, and 17 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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